

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

INTRODUCED BY ROUSH, BARKUS, BLACK, HANSEN, JOPEK, JUNEAU, SMITH, TESTER, TROPILA,
WEINBERG, WILSON, COCCHIARELLA

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
MONTANA URGING SUPPORT FOR AND CONTINUED FUNDING OF AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE
THROUGH MONTANA.

WHEREAS, Amtrak is energy-efficient and environmentally beneficial, consuming about half as much
energy per passenger-mile as airlines and causing less air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides mobility to citizens of many smaller communities that are poorly served
by air and bus service, as well as to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, students, and persons with medical
conditions that prevent them from flying; and

WHEREAS, communities served by Amtrak in Montana are not provided with any other mode of public
transportation, and residents of these communities are required to travel up to 200 miles to the nearest airport;
and

WHEREAS, 129,044 passengers rode Amtrak across Montana in fiscal year 2004, up from 122,053 in
fiscal year 2003; and

WHEREAS, Montana's tourism industry benefits from rail passenger service through the state; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak spent \$57,495 for goods and services in Montana in fiscal year 2004, up from
\$19,800 in fiscal year 2003; and

WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2004, Amtrak employed 57 Montanans, who earned a total of \$3,293,052
in wages; and

WHEREAS, according to a February 6, 2005, editorial in the Great Falls Tribune, a recent national
survey found that 71% of Americans believe federal subsidies of Amtrak are about right or not enough; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is vital to the economy of Montana's northern tier, as indicated by a recent study
by R.L. Banks & Associates that concluded that Amtrak's Empire Builder contributes nearly \$14 million annually
in economic benefits to the State of Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

1 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the 59th Montana Legislature urge Montana's Congressional Delegation to support continued
3 Amtrak passenger rail service through Montana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 59th Montana Legislature urge the President and the United
5 States Congress to include funding for Amtrak in any spending plan that is adopted.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to Montana's
7 Congressional Delegation.

8 - END -